

In the claims.

1 - 34. (cancelled)

35. (currently amended) B1 ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 1, for configuring a product that is associated with a number of configurable features, wherein the method allows a customer to dynamically interact with a seller of the product over the Internet during the configuration, the method comprising:

receiving into a configuration application of the seller a selected feature;

communicating to a manufacturer the selected feature;

receiving over the Internet an automated response including an availability date


that corresponds to the selected feature from the manufacturer; and

updating an in-process bill of materials to reflect that selected feature;

wherein the availability date received from the manufacturer over the Internet is provided by a supply chain planning (SCP) system.

36-38. (cancelled)

39. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 38, for selling a configurable product incorporating at least one feature to be selected by a customer, the method for each selectable feature comprising:

- 
- (a) receiving a feature selection;
 - (b) updating an inventory library based upon the selection to reflect constraints imposed by the selection;
 - (c) providing the selection to a supplier;
 - (d) receiving information from the supplier comprising at least one of availability date and price for the selection;
 - (e) where customer desires are not satisfied, providing at least one of a customer desired availability date and a customer desired price for the selection;
 - (f) displaying accommodation data from the supplier corresponding to the customer desires; and
 - (g) updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a configuration bill of materials based on the selection;

wherein the customer desires comprise at least one of either a plurality of availability dates ~~[[and]]~~ or a plurality of prices for the selected feature.

40. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A method of claim 38, for selling a configurable product incorporating at least one feature to be selected by a customer, the method for each selectable feature comprising:

- B1
- (a) receiving a feature selection;
 - (b) updating an inventory library based upon the selection to reflect constraints imposed by the selection;
 - (c) providing the selection to a supplier;
 - (d) receiving information from the supplier comprising at least one of availability date and price for the selection;
 - (e) where customer desires are not satisfied, providing at least one of a customer desired availability date and a customer desired price for the selection;
 - (f) displaying accommodation data from the supplier corresponding to the customer desires; and
 - (g) updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a configuration bill of materials based on the selection;

wherein the step (d) of receiving information on the selection from the supplier further comprises receiving from the supplier a plurality of availability dates and a plurality of prices for the selected feature.

41-49. (cancelled)

50. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

B2

repeating the steps of receiving into a configuration application a selected feature, communicating to a manufacturer the selected feature, receiving from the manufacturer an automated response including an availability date, and updating a number of times until the configuration is complete thereby yielding a completed bill of materials.

51. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the step of receiving from the manufacturer an automated response including an availability date is preceded by the step of:

communicating the selected feature to a vendor.

52. (new) The method of claim 35, the method further comprising:

in response to the received availability date being unsatisfactory to the customer,
communicating a customer specified availability date to at least one of the
seller and manufacturer.

53. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the availability date received from the
manufacturer is in response to a customer specified availability date communicated to at
least one of the seller and manufacturer.

54. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the availability date received from the
manufacturer is in response to a customer specified price communicated to at least one of
the seller and manufacturer.

B7 55. (new) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

deriving, from the in-process bill of materials, an in-process manufacturing bill of
materials that reflects the received availability date that corresponds to the
selected feature.

56. (new) The method of claim 35, the method further comprising:

receiving a price that corresponds to the selected feature.

57. (new) The method of claim 35, the method further comprising:

in response to the received price being unsatisfactory to the customer,
communicating a customer specified price to at least one of
the seller and manufacturer.

58. (new) The method of claim 56, wherein the price received is in response to a
customer specified availability date communicated to at least one of the seller and
manufacturer.

59. (new) The method of claim 56, wherein the price received is in response to a customer specified price communicated to at least one of the seller and manufacturer.

60. (new) The method of claim 56, wherein a relationship between the customer and the seller has a configuration side associated with the customer, and a resource planning side associated with the seller, and that configuration side-resource planning side relationship is respectively one of a consumer-seller relationship, a seller-manufacturer relationship and a manufacturer-vendor relationship.

61. (new) The method of claim 60, further comprising:

in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the configuration side, deriving an in-process pricing bill of materials from the in-process bill of materials, wherein the in-process pricing bill of materials reflects the price of the selected feature; and

in response to the price of the selected feature being determined on the resource planning side, deriving the in-process pricing bill of materials from an in-process manufacturing bill of materials that is derived from the in-process bill of materials and reflects the received availability date of the selected feature.

62. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the pricing bill of materials is derived from the configuration bill of materials.

63. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the pricing bill of materials is derived from the manufacturing bill of materials.

64. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the step (g) of updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a configuration bill of materials is based upon the accommodation data from the supplier.

65. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the pricing bill of materials is derived from the configuration bill of materials.

66. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the pricing bill of materials is derived from the manufacturing bill of materials.

67. (new) The method of claim 40, wherein the step (g) of updating at least one of a manufacturing bill of materials, a pricing bill of materials, and a configuration bill of materials is based upon the accommodation data from the supplier.